

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor comprising a photosensitive layer disposed on a substrate, wherein the substrate is aluminum and the photosensitive layer includes a A photosensitive composition comprising an infrared absorbing agent, a sulfonium salt polymerization initiator, a polymerizable compound, a binder polymer having a molecular weight of 5000 to 500,000, and a compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group,

wherein the polymerizable compound is an addition-polymerizable compound having at least one ethylenically unsaturated double bond, and

wherein the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is selected from the group consisting of a trimellitic acid derivative, pyromellitic acid derivative, a succinic acid derivative, and a glycine derivative.

2.-9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein a protective layer is disposed on the photosensitive layer.

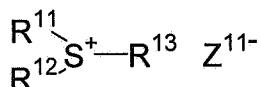
11.-12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the content of the compound having a weight average molecular weight of 3000 or

less and having at least one carboxylic acid group is 0.5 to 30% by mass based on the total solid content of the composition.

14. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the sulfonium salt polymerization initiator is an onium salt represented by the following general formula (I):

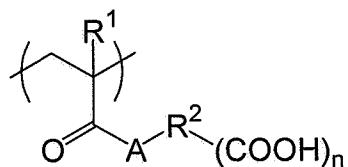
General formula (I)



wherein R^{11} , R^{12} and R^{13} each independently represent an optionally substituted hydrocarbon group having 20 or less carbon atoms, and Z^{11-} represents a counterion selected from the group consisting of a halogen ion, a perchlorate ion, a tetrafluoroborate ion, a hexafluorophosphate ion, a carboxylate ion and a sulfonate ion.

15. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the binder polymer has a repeating unit represented by the following general formula (i):

General formula (i)



wherein R¹ represents a hydrogen atom or a methyl group; R² represents a linking group composed of two or more atoms selected from the group consisting of a carbon atom, a hydrogen atom, an oxygen atom, a nitrogen atom and a sulfur atom, and wherein the total number of atoms in R² is 2 to 82; A represents an oxygen atom or –NR³– in which R³ represents a hydrogen atom or a monovalent hydrocarbon group having 1 to 10 carbon atoms; and n is an integer from 1 to 5.

16. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is a dye having an absorption maximum at a wavelength of 700 to 1200 nm.

17. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 15 16, wherein the infrared absorbing agent is selected from the group consisting of cyanine dyes, phthalocyanine dyes, oxonol dyes, squarylium dyes, pyrylium salts, thiopyrylium dyes and nickelthiolate complexes.

18. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein a coating amount of the photosensitive layer after drying is 0.1 to 10 g/m².

19. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 10, wherein the protective layer comprises polyvinyl alcohol as a major component.

20. (currently amended): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 9 1, wherein the planographic printing plate precursor is subjected to imagewise exposure with laser light having a wavelength of 750 to 1400 nm.

21. (currently amended): A ~~photosensitive composition-~~ planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the binder polymer has a molecular weight of from 10,000 to 200,000.

22. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum substrate is subjected to surface roughening treatment.

23. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum substrate is subjected to anodizing treatment.

24. (new): A planographic printing plate precursor according to claim 1, wherein the aluminum substrate is subjected to hydrophilicity-conferring treatment.